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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE - Public Health Service

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NLM HOSTS WORKSHOP ON DRUG INFORMATION CENTERS

Last month, at the invitation of the Public Health Service, a group of pharmacists familiar with the operation of hospital-based drug information centers participated in a seminar at the National Library of Medicine on the management of drug information.

The objective of the workshop was to explore the requirements for a national drug information network which would bring about improvements in the safety, efficacy, and economy of medication practices in hospitals.

Keynote of the meeting was a statement by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 31, 1964, in which he said, "An essential part of the health program for a new Democratic Administration would be the development of a system of drug information centers to collect and disseminate information, not only on adverse side-effects of drugs, but on their latest developments and applications."

The program included an announcement of intentions, a welcome by Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the Library, an outline of the Federal resources for information, and a summary of the drug information activities of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Each of the participating pharmacists related his experience with a drug information center and his concept of the needs of a drug information system. Major conclusions reached by the conferees were summarized in a report by Dr. Paul Parker of the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Parker identified the need for a national resource of medical literature, such as the National Library of Medicine could provide, to permit effective cross-referencing of information on drugs and on their clinical applications.

NLM TO COOPERATE IN PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL NURSING INDEX

Philip E. Day, R.N., executive director of the American Journal of Nursing Company, announced late in April that the National Library of Medicine will cooperate with the Company in the preparation of a new publication, International Nursing Index.

International Nursing Index, to be edited by Lucille Notter, R.N., Ed.D., will contain references from more than 125 nursing journals published in the United States and other countries, plus nursing articles in non-nursing journals indexed by NLM.

Publication of International Nursing Index, Mr. Day said, marks a new advance in the fulfillment of the profession's need for bibliographic control over today's wealth of nursing articles in periodical literature. Two indexes, the Cumulative Index to Nursing Literature and the Nursing Studies Index, Volume Four, 1957-1959, presently provide partial coverage of the literature.

International Nursing Index, planned as a quarterly publication beginning in 1966, represents the next stage in the development of a comprehensive index to the literature of nursing.

NLM PROVIDES SHORT-TERM TRAINING IN INDEXING AND SEARCHING

Two staff members of the Biomedical Library of the University of California at Los Angeles and a representative of a New York journal publisher recently began training in the Library's methods of indexing and searching medical literature.

Mr. Robert Lewis and Miss Betsey Starr are associated with UCLA's MEDLARS search center, a pilot study program for decentralizing MEDLARS.

Mr. Fred Pattison of the American Journal of Nursing Company will spend four to six weeks doing indexing in preparation for work on the proposed International Nursing Index.

Mr. Lewis, who heads the Biomedical Library's Public Services Division, will receive three months' training in NLM indexing methods. Miss Starr will be given four months' training in searching. Under the UCLA project contract, NLM is providing duplicate MEDLARS tapes to the University's Biomedical Library which will reprogram the tapes to make the stored information available locally.

NLM CONSULTANTS DISCUSS MESH TERMS

The Ad Hoc Committee on Epidemiology Terminology held its second meeting at the National Library of Medicine in April. The purpose of the Committee is to develop additional Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms relating to the field of epidemiology, thus increasing the depth of indexing of the literature.

Dr. Morton Schweitzer, Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology, Columbia University School of Public Health, served as chairman. Other consultants included Dr. Lila Elveback, head of the Statistics Unit, Public Health Research Institute of New York; Dr. Leo Reeder, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center; and Dr. Clifford A. Bachrach of the National Heart Institute.

NLM participants included Dr. Louis S. Gerber, Executive Secretary for the Committee, Dr. Peter Olch, Miss Anne McCann, Mrs. Sally Miles, and Miss Alice Laskey.

ACSP REVIEWS PUBLICATIONS GRANTS

The Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Scientific Publications held its eighth meeting April 27-28, in the National Library of Medicine.

The ACSP was established in 1962 to provide a common PHS review mechanism for applications for grants to support scientific publications in the biomedical field. The Committee also advises the Surgeon General on policy regarding PHS support of scientific publishing.

Chairman of the Committee is Dr. Richard R. Willey of Tucson, Arizona. Members are non-Federal consultants from nonprofit institutions. Miss Mary E. Corning, Chief of NLM's Publications and Translations Division, is Executive Secretary.

The Committee has scheduled its next meeting for September 22-23.

STUDENT LIBRARIAN GETS FIELD TRAINING AT NLM

Miss Daphne Allen, a student from the University of Washington School of Librarianship, recently completed four weeks' orientation at the National Library of Medicine. Her assignment with NLM was arranged as part of her regular curriculum to provide practical experience in the organization, functions, and procedures of a major research library.

During her stay, Miss Allen trained briefly with each Division of the Library. Mrs. Maxine Hanke, Assistant to the Associate Director for Extramural Programs, acted as her preceptor. Miss Allen also visited the Library of Congress and the National Institutes of Health Library.

A graduate of Portland State College, Miss Allen has also studied at the University of California at Berkeley and worked as a student assistant in the University of Oregon Dental School Library.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DISCUSSES MEDLARS BEFORE PHILADELPHIA GROUP

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of NLM, participated in the Second Annual National Colloquium on Information Retrieval, April 23-24, in Philadelphia. During the session on mechanization, Mr. Adams presented a paper on "MEDLARS--Progress and Prospects."

Mr. Adams is the author of "The Scientific Revolution and the Research Library," published in the Spring 1965 issue of Library Resources & Technical Services, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 133-142, and in the April 1965 issue of the Japanese journal, Biblos, Vol. 16, No. 4, pp. 1-24.

NEW ADDRESS FOR NLM

The official address of the National Library of Medicine has changed from 8600 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20014 to 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

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